



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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**Twenty Wisconsin schools recognized for
narrowing the achievement gap**

MADISON—Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services has identified 20 Wisconsin schools from 19 districts that have significantly narrowed the achievement gap between higher- and lower-performing student groups from the 2003-04 to the 2004-05 school years.

"Across our state, educators, in partnership with parents, are working hard to increase achievement for all students, close the gap in achievement between economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and their peers, and provide a quality education to every child," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "To close the gap, we must continue our support for 4-year-old kindergarten and the P-5 and Student Achievement Guarantee in Education programs that reduce class sizes in lower grades and provide a solid educational foundation for our students."

To be recognized, schools had to test at least 30 students in each group; reduce the achievement gap between groups in a combined reading and math proficiency score established by Standard & Poor's by more than 5 percentage points, while simultaneously raising that score for each student group being compared; and reduce the achievement gap between groups in a grade-level reading test by more than 5 percentage points, while simultaneously raising the reading proficiency rate for each student group being compared.

"It is difficult to narrow achievement gaps," said Thomas Sheridan, vice president of Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services. "However, this analysis shows there are a number of Wisconsin schools that have made outstanding progress, and their success should be commended."

Among the 20 Wisconsin schools recognized, Brown Deer Middle School in the Brown Deer School District narrowed the achievement gap between black and white students; Preble High School in the Green Bay Area School District and Cherokee Middle School in the Madison Metropolitan School

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District narrowed the gap between Hispanic and white students; and 17 others narrowed the gap between economically disadvantaged students and all students.

The Madison Metropolitan School District was the only school district to have two schools on the list: Cherokee Middle School, which also narrowed the gap between its economically disadvantaged students and all students, making it the only school to narrow the gap between multiple student groups; and Black Hawk Middle School, which narrowed the gap between its economically disadvantaged students and all students.

The 20 Wisconsin schools recognized by Standard & Poor's as having narrowed the achievement gap are

- Altoona Middle School, Altoona School District;
- Ashland High School, Ashland School District;
- Baraboo Middle School, Baraboo School District;
- Black Hawk Middle School, Madison Metropolitan School District;
- Brown Deer Middle School, Brown Deer School District;
- Central Middle School, Superior School District;
- Cherokee Middle School, Madison Metropolitan School District;
- Delong Middle School, Eau Claire Area School District;
- East Junior High School, Wisconsin Rapids School District;
- Frank Lloyd Wright Middle School, West Allis School District;
- Horace Mann Middle School, Sheboygan Area School District;
- Horace Mann Middle School, Wausau School District;
- Memorial High School, Beloit School District;
- Neenah High School, Neenah School District;
- New Richmond Middle School, New Richmond School District;
- North Junior High School Campus, Menomonee Falls School District;
- Oak Creek High School, Oak Creek Franklin School District;
- Preble High School, Green Bay Area School District;
- Rice Lake Middle School, Rice Lake Area School District; and
- Roosevelt Middle School, Appleton Area School District.

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